

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Miles et al. Art Unit: 3732  
Serial No.: 10/608,362 Examiner: Pedro Philogene  
Filing Date: June 26, 2003  
Title: Surgical Access System and Related Methods

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**Certificate of Transmission:** I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, via EFS-Web, on May 13, 2009:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ /Rory Schermerhorn/

Rory Schermerhorn, Reg. No. 58,148

**RESPONSE AFTER FINAL**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed February 13, 2009, having a shortened statutory period for response which expires on May 13, 2009, Applicants respectfully request the application be amended as follows: